YORR DATES TRUNCHE SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1875-QUARRUPE SHEEF

WASHINGTON TOPIOS.

A CABINET SIDEBOARD.

Cue Property to Ect.

ANALOGY BETWEEN A LANDAULET FOR MR. WIL LIAMS AND FINE FURNITURE FOR MR. ROBESON AND FONT AND PICTURE FRAMES FOR OTHERS. OM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The appropriation of Government property to private use is a form of offi-cial dishonesty which has long prevailed to a greater or less extent in nearly every department of the public service. Instances of it are as familiar to newspaper readers as household words. Cabinet and fficers in Washington have for years used rees and carriages belonging to the United States for private purposes, and still do so, in spite of the fact that Attorney-General Williams's landaulet ost him the position of Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Some of the same offirs have rooms in their houses richly furnished as Government expense, on the theory that they ought to be provided by the United States with the means of transacting business at home.

The employment of the Government work-shops, Government material, and Government labor for manufacture of articles for private use has also n common. It used to be asserted that under former administrations of the Treasury Departmen drawings and plans for the private residences of Government officials were sometimes prepared in office of the Supervising Architect, and furniture for private use was also manufactured in the Treasury cabinet-shop. It is believed that under Secretary Bristow's administration nothing of this kind has occurred.

The work-shops in the Navy-Yards have always been used to some extent for the purpose of private manufacturing, and in some of them regulations have been established by which this can be done in certain cases, and the Government be fully reim-In the Washington Yard this is sometimes done in the following way: An order from the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair for the manufacture of a certain article is obtained. is presented to the proper officer of the Yard, s an order to the proper foreman with inructions to keep a strict account of the material used and the labor employed. When the work is completed the paymaster of the Yard is paid in acnce with a bill prepared by the foreman who did the work, and vouchers for the material and labor so used are made out in triplicate. One is retained by the paymaster, one by the foreman under phose direction the work was done, and one is sent to the Bureau of Construction and Repair in the Navy Department. It is doubtful if there is any legal authority for using the Government workshops for private purposes, even under these regulations, but such cases the Government is reimbursed and

really loses nothing. High officials have been recently accused of using the Washington Navy-Yard and the Government material and labor for the manufacture of articles for rivate use without requiring any account to be kept or any other means to be taken by which paynt could be made if it were desired. On the 5th of February, some men formerly employed in the Navy-Yard, who had the means of knowing what they asserted, offered to prove that a splendid sideboard had been made in the Navy-Yard for Secretary Robeson out of Government material, and in the main by Government employés; that the latter had been paid by the paymaster of the Yard, and that no separate account of the material or labor board had been made in the Navy-Yard for Secretary Robeson out of Government material, and in had been paid by the paymaster of the Yard, and

had been kept in order that the cost of the sideboard might be determined and the Government reimbursed. They also asserted that, in the Spring of 1874, a font was made in the Navy-Yard, also of Government material and by Government labor, and that, by direction of the Secretary of the Navy, it was shipped in two boxes, about the middle of May, to "Hon. A. Q. Keasby, care of William Monahan, Monmouth Beach, N. J., via Long Branch boat." They also asserted that hundreds of dollars' worth of fancy boxes, picture-frames and other furniture had been made for private use, for which the Government had never been repaid.

Recently a board, consisting of officers in the Navy-Yard, was appointed to investigate these accusations, and the men who made them offered to go before the board and explain the whole case on four conditions, viz. :

1. That witnesses should be examined under

2. That one of those who made the accu should have the privilege of cross-examining wit-

3. The production of such documents belonging to the Government as those making the accusations should consider necessary

4. That the board should sit with open doors. These conditions were not agreed to by the board, and those making the accusations withdrew. The whole case reduces itself to this : Either Secretary obeson is guilty of converting public property to his private use, or there has been irregularity and dishonesty in the Washington Navy-Yard. The friends of the Secretary believe the latter to be the case, and while they would regret his want of discretion in using the Government shops for the manufacture of articles for private use, even though the Government has been fully reimbursed, they believe it to be his duty to relieve himself from every shadow of suspicion by causing the present investigation to be thorough and conducted in public, so that all the world may know what the facts are.

THE FREEDMAN'S BANK'S AFFAIRS. DIFFICULTY OF LEARNING THE TRUE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE BANK-EFFORTS OF THE

COMMISSIONERS TO HAVE RESIGNATIONS AC-CEPTED.

OM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, April 8 .- The Commissioners of the Freedman's Bank have about made up their minds that they cannot escape the duties assigned them namely, settling the affairs of the bank and its 21 branches. Many of the bank's depositors are ignorant colored people, and they still decline surrendering the pass-books, an action which greatly embarrasses the pass-books, an action which greatly embarrasses the Commissioners. Every day develops some strange negotiations by the management in lending the bank funds before the institution collapsed. Property has been solvertised for sale at auction, in regard to which Commissioner Leiofold states he found among the bank's records a clear abstract for the land; and the Commissioners, in order to save the property, are compelled to attend the sale and purchase it until the question of the true title and ownership is settled. The Commissioners, even had they \$600,000, which amount would be necessary to déclare the first dividend, would not feel warranted in so doing unless the Government would come to their aid. What they want is the assistance of all United States depositories, so that such dividends could be paid at such places by schedule. Matters have not worked altogether harmoniously between the old bank management and the Commissioners since the latter were installed in office. The old managers have been free in their suggestions of how things ought to be done, and have not he situated to force their uncalled-for advice on the Commissioners. The latter gentlemen have exercised they own independ in adopting sugestions

come to the conclusion that these assets are daily diminishing. The Commissioners hold, and it appears to be the prevailing opinion in official circles that the Congressional demand for an investigation into the affairs of the institution started the ball in motion which has proved so destructive to the bank. It had three distinct runs upon it, and an institution which can stand up under such a clamor by the depositors as was set up when this investigation was begun must have a remarkably sound management and a strong foundation. The Commissioners say that heartrending appeals from the depositors are constantly being made, many of whom cannot understand where their money has gone. Moreover the Commissioners stand with resignations in hand; but their resignations cannot be accepted, according to the Attorney-General. The only way they can retire from their Commissionerships is through a chancery court. The Commissioners are anxious to be relieved, but they hold offices which, unlike most other Governmental positions, there is a difficulty in abandoning.

A SEQUEL TO PENIKESE.

A GEOLOGICAL CAMP IN CUMBERLAND GAP. HARVARD UNDERTAKES A NEW ENTERPRISE-PROF. SHALER'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUMMER INSTRUC-TION IN GEOLOGY-CAMP TO BE PITCHED NEAR

CUMBERLAND GAP, KENTUCKY. Boston, April 8.-The success of the Agassiz School of Natural History at Penikese has induced Prof. N. S. Shaler of Harvard College to undertake an with such encouragement as leads him to anticipate the best results. Prof. Shaler is a native of Kentucky, ortance than might be expected, because the State has a regularly organized surveying staff, made up of men as able and efficient as can be found anywhere i the country. Prof. Shaler was the more encouraged to carry out his ideas for the very reason that he had this trained body of men at his command, and because the State of Kentucky afforded as good ground as could logical instruction. The Governor of the State was anxious that the school should be established, and promised his official co-operation with Prof. Shaler's efforts. Cumberland Gap and the surrounding country was selected particular y on account of the eminent ad vantages it offers for the study of a great section of the American Palæozoic rocks, and of the structure of the appalachian Mountains. It affords every kind of sub-

The special object of the school is to teach students to observe; therefore none will be taken among the 25 which number is the limit-except graduates of colleges, teachers or persons who give evidence of training suf-ficient to enable them to profit by the instruction. The branches in which instruction will be given are Physical Geology, Historical Geology and Palæontology, Chemical Geology, and Topographical Engineering, as far as these subjects are connected with geological work. It is expected that there will be at all times one instructor, at the most, to four or five persons. These instructors will be, besides Professor Shaler, Dr. Asa Gray, Fisher Professor of Natural History, Dr. Josiah D. Whitney, Sturgis-Hooper Professor of Geology; Raphaei Pumpelly, Professor of Mining, and Walter Faxon, Assistant in the Zoological Labaratory of Harvard, and the following members of the Kentucky State vard, and the following members of the Kentucky State Survey: Dr. Robert Peter, principal chemist, and accounted the most learned man in the United States about soils; John H. Taibot (a graduate of the Lawrence Scientific School and native of Kentucky): Professor A. R. Crandail of Kentucky University, for many years at Harvard; Philip N. Moore and C. J. Norwood, assistants; Charles Schenck and William Byre Page of Virginia, topographers, and Lucien Carr, archeologist. The instruction to be given will be by no means complete and will be directed expressly to the clucidation of the problems furnished by the area to be explored. Some instruction on the zoology and botany of the neighbor-

way place—it is 100 miles from the terminus of the Lebanou branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and 40 from the nearest point on the East Tenniessee Railroad—is the cheapness of subsistence. The high cost of living was a great drawback at Penikese. Here the students will find themselves in the forest primeval, indeed among people who know not the value of money, whose only way of trading is by barter; and possibly they may, find people who never learst of the Louislana troubles, the gag law, or Pacific Mail. They will pay ten cents a gallou for milk and five cents a dozen for eggs. In fact, Prof. Shaler expects that the whole camp, which will number almost 50 persons, can be subsisted together with the necessary pack mules, for \$100 a week; and he has fixed the fees for nine weeks' tuition, use of tents, camp equipage and transportation at only \$50 in addition to a proportionate share of the cost of subsistence.

ence.

As might have been expected, the number of applicants was far in excess of the number which could be accepted, but Prof. Shaler has been very careful not to accept any too hastily, in order that persons well fitted for such a school might not be left out. Should the campfulfil expectations (and it is not easy to see how there can be any such thing as failure), it is almost certain that the school will become a permanent institution, selecting a new place each year.

PROGRESS OF A NEIGHBORING REPUBLIC.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF COLOMBIA WITH OTHER

COUNTRIES-RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION. PROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Bogota, Feb. 14.—The remarkable progress which Colombia has made during the last three years in developing her commercial, agricultural, and mining in serests is sufficient warrant for the anticipation of still greater strides in prosperity in the future. In a geographical point of view it is the first of the South American Republics in importance, as it embraces the Isthmus of Darien, the key to the commerce of the Atlantic and Pacific. Colombia is washed by both oceans and has important scaports, embracing safe and commodious harbors on each. Colombia is divided into nine States and five Territories. The States are Antioquia Bolivar, Boyaca, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Magdalena, Panama, Santander, and Tolema. The Territories are Panama, Santander, and Tolena.

Bolivar, Cosanare, Goujira, Providencia, and San

Martin Tilly embrace, an area of territory Martin. Tuey embrace, an area of territor of about 500,000 square miles, with an est mated population of more than three millions. Sugar, cotton, coffee, rice, tobacco, quinine, balsams, indigo, and dyewood abound, while on the table lands of Bogota, potatoes, apples, and the cereal products of the temperate zone flourish. In mineral resources nbia possesses great and unlimited wealth. Her rocks and mountains teem with gold and silver, copper, iron, and precious stones, while they are underlaid with strata of coal, and her salt mines, now rudely worked,

strata of coal, and her sait mines, now rudely worked, yield large revenue to the country.

Her commercial relations are with England, France, Germany, and the United States. The proportion of trade, however, that falls to the shores of the latter, her most natural ally and neighbor, is comparatively insignificant. Her cotton, tobacco, and Ivory nuts go to Europe, while her copper, hides, balsam, quimbe, and dyewoods are divided between Europe and the United States, only a small portion, however, to the latter. Of her imports, her dry and faucy goods, hardware, liquors, paper, &c., are drawn from European markets, leaving provisions, soaps, &c., to be furnished by the United States. Formerly Carthagens and Santa Martha were her chief ports on the Arlantic coast. Colon, though a Colombian port in practice, may be considered as having no commercial importance in this republic. Through the two former a large part of her merchandise and products passed; but during the last three or four years a striking change has been wrought. Now the port of Savanilla, until within a short time unknown on charts, has become the rendezvous of foreign steamers. By connecting this port by railroad with Barranquilla, a thriving city with a present population of nearly 20,060, situated at a lower terminus of the Magdalena, 15 miles distant inland, great shipping facilities have been opened, and a vast amount of business has been diverted from its old channels. Five powerful lines of steamers now ply between this place and Europe, and one of these (owned in Europe) between Savanilla and New-York semi-monthly. The question of changing the custom-house from Savanilla to Barranquilla is being agitated, and if the change be made the business of this flourishing young city will be materially increased. On the Pacific Buenaventura is the chief port of entry, and is visited by two lines of steamers, and a railroad is being constructed from this point to the Canca River,

reaching a valley of unequalled richness, abounding in rich agricultural products, precious woods, superior gums, and choice medicinal plants, while the groves of cocos are measured by square miles. The river Mardalena is navigable from Barrauquilla to Honds, and 13 targe steamers, owned by three steamboat companies, are doing a lucrative business. This is known as the lower Magdalena for a distance of nearly comiles, while above Honda it is called the upper Magdalena.

All that Colombia needs to become a great country is better means of communication internally and externally, and the cultivation of more intimate relations with the American people. Gen. Solvar, late President of the Republic, and Dr. Perez, now President, are both progressive men, and have done much to open the country by means of common roads and railroads, and to this end various Government guarantees have been given by the State and General Government. Among the railroads projected and now being constructed is one from the Bay of Buenaventura, on the Pacific coast, to the Canca Valley. It will open up a portion of country not excelled in climate or richness on the globe. A railroad is also being constructed by an American company from the capital of the country, fite beautiful City of Bogots, to the Magdalena River. This will make communication pleasant and rapid between the two most important points in the country heretofore, and at present, only traversed by mules laden with the merchandies of the world. The writer recently passed over the road, counting on the way 4,000 mules thus laden.

With peace in the country, and the genuine desire for progress which has received such an impetus during the last few years, Colombia, now comparatively unknown, will be in advance of all the South American republics in commercial importance.

MR. FROUDE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

THE NEGRO QUESTION IN THE CAPE COLONIES-MARVELLOUSLY RICH COUNTRY. From The London Times.

MARVELLOUSLY RICH COUNTRY.

From The London Times.

On Saturday evening a public dinner was given at the Westminster Palace Hotel by a committee of merchants and other gentlemen connected with South Africa to Mr. J. A. Froude, the historian, on his return from a visit to the Transvani, Orange Free States, Natal, and the Cape Colonies. The occasion afforded Mr. Froude an opportunity of stating his views on the present position of affairs in those countries. He said that he had gone to the Cape because he was exceedingly anxious to know how responsible governments were working in the Colonies where they had been established. Various persons had prophesied that to grant self-government to the colonies was to insure their being at no very distant time separated from the mother country. It had seemed to him wholly incredible that, giving them the zovernment they desired, and so removing all possible grounds of quarrel, would tend to separation. Well, when he got to the Cape his mind was entirely set at rest on that score. A few light words might have been uttered here and there by people who did not consider what they were saying; but, as regarded the great body of the colonists, he had never met any class of men—English, Scotch, or seen Dutch—who were more heartily attached to the mother country han his fellow-countrymen at the Cape. He had gone out to see what the country was like, and havings traveled 1,600 miles in mile carts and in all sorts of ways over the roughest of roads, he believed that, both for climate and natural capabilities, the country was like, and havings traveled in any other part of the world. He did not speak of the enormous mineral wealth just developed—the diamonds, the city of the part of the world. He did not speak of the immense pold fields, which bade fair to rival those of California and Australia, though these must have the greatest induce on the future growth of the colony. He spoke of the immense productiveness of the copper, or the immense gold fields, which bade fair to rival those

colonies to live in the case and tradulgence they enjoyed there. That evil must, therefore, continue unless they found some means of dealing with it. He was not and never had been, an entbusiastic sympathiser with these who dwelt on the excessive wrongs in these latter day of the black races. The Zulus were not an indirector race, and had no aboriginal claim on the land they occupied. They were a conquering people who came down there within the last century, burning and destroying everything before them. They were a flerce, brave, daring race, with many very his warrike qualities; they were extremely danageous in war, as in our Kaffir wars we had had reason to knew and in their warfare with the natives they were crossed ingly bloodthirsty. In Natal there were only 17, as whites and 300,000 of those people, with some 460,as more of them on one side, and 500,000 more on another. There was also a large number in the Cape and in Transvani. For a long time pass they had been importing guns and ammunition, and had had Europeans to drill them. The white settlers, therefore, could not but look on the black people around them with alarm and supicion; the blacks in turn looked on the whites with the same feelings; and no passion was so certain to provide collision as mutual fear. Again the Zulu did not were the Free States were much better trained and better in every way than the others. In the Free States in antives were plainly told that the country was home and, if they came there, they must live according to the system established throughout South Africa. It natives were permitted throughout South Africa. It natives were very sharp; and as long as they looked on an and the Dutch as rivals between whom some day there might be a quarrel, they never would be settled, but would go on collecting arms in hopes of fecovering possession of the country or some part of it. If a federation with the Dutch could not be now effected, at any there might be a quarrel, they never would be settled, but would go on collecting arms in h

MEETINGS FOR CHRISTIAN WORK To the Editor of The Iribune.

SIR: It is proposed that a meeting on the subject of Christian work, similar to that held in Asse ciation Hall on Good Friday, be held on the remain Thursdays in April. The meetings will be held a occasions for prayer and addresses in relation to the necessity of increasing personal effort on the part of lay Christians. The suggestion is very timely. This not a day for any Christian to stand idle. There are doubt great numbers in all our churches who would doubt great numbers in an owe currents who would gladly devote a few hours a week in any good work, they knew exactly what to do and how to do it. Let this be shown them. The faithful presentation how do this great subject of personal service is just the trumps call needed to add thousands of Christian workers to us ranks of those already in the field in the great waten against sin and suffering in our city. Respectfully yours.

New York April 7, 1875. New York, April 7, 1875.

NORTHERN MEN IN THE SOUTH. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I am a Northern man, have been here am treated one whit differently from those who were born way. My partner and myself are known as Norther way. My partner and myself are known as Norther business men, and if we lose a dollar's worth of trade by that fact it is something unknown to us. This is written because false reports are continually being circulated North, and I desire that the good people of the South where I have made my home shall have full justice done at least at my hands. They shall have full justice done at least at my hands. They shall have full justice done at least at my hands. They shall have full justice done at least at my hands. They shall have full justice and have my name paraded out, as I amonia plain business man.

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CHAS. W. NASH.

J. H. CROOK

WINTER SCENERY AT LAKE TAHOE.

THE HEART OF THE SIERRA NEVADA. CEMPERATURE, CLEAR WEATHER, SUNSET, AND FOG-A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TEMPERA-

DROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. LAKE TAHOE, Cal., March 14.-A newly awakened interest in whatever concerns Lake Tahoe, Calfornia, renders facts concerning its atmospheric and other conditions peculiarly valuable in eference to the fitness of the selection, in which the thinking and intelligent masses upon the Pacific coast, at least, take a deep interest. Concerning the state of the atmosphere during the Summer season no question s raised; far otherwise, however, in relation to the ter season, from November to April.

The great altitude of this lake, 6,226 feet above the sevel of the ocean; its size, 300 or more square miles; its depth, the purity of the water, and its high, mountain surroundings, take this most remarkable region out of the line of comparison with any other lake on the globe. To those conditions, and its geographical posidon within the temperate zone, are to be attributed the extraordinary atmospheric phenomena which are here exhibited. Summer tourists all express their admiration of the scenery of Lake Taboe; but in my estima-tion it is more attractive in Winter. Some who, from having visited both, are qualified to pro-nounce an opinion, assert that the Lake of Geneva is tame in comparison with Tahoe. The mountains have an altitude of from 1,000 to nearly \$,000 feet above the level of the lake. The heavy snow covering, as viewed in the brilliant sunshine and clear atmosphere, brings out in bold relief all prominent points, revealing the deep gorges and canons searring their sides. The outlines are sharp, and there is an effect of great massiveness which the softened tones of Summer landscape do not convey. One peculiarity of Winter is the distinctness with which objects at a distance are seen, and their apparent nearness, the deceptiveness being remarkable.

California sunsets, which a have been viewing 23 years, respiendent as so many of them were, were all out-done by a sunset on this lake last Winter. The snowstorm of New-Year's Day continued 33 hours. At last the sky cleared, and the mountains of the eastern shore were left especially prominent in their massive whiteness. On the second evening afterward (Jan. 4), during a full half bour before the sun set, a gorgeous audjenchanting scene was presented to the eye. The general width of the lake is from eight to twelve miles, its length about 23; its depth from 1,000 to 2,000 feet, with very few shoals. Upon the surface of this great body of pellucid water, as smooth as a polished mirror, the eastern mountains cast the deflected rays of a golden, burning sun; while the dome of the sky, from horizon to zenith, was ablaze with all sonceivable tints—all reflected by the more than three bundred square miles of lake; and this scene of fairy anchantment lingered until finally the "sad gray" de livered it over to the deeper shadows of night.

Nature, as if to disport in various mood, gave us, on the morning of January 6, 11874, the only dense fog have known here. It seemed to hang as a pall, ob scuring about two thirds of the upper portion of the sountains, and was broken so as to give an idea that their whole elevation was presented to view. A very aliar tone of light fliumed the lake, which was in fead calm, and the whole had the effect of perspective Encs, diminishing to a vanishing point, giving an idea of great distance, and lending a weird and awe inspiring sharacter to the scene. |A few days afterward an intel agent observer remarked to me that the lake looked that morning as if it were 100 miles long.] It was to me s polar scene that I watched with unabated interest during its continuance. Thermometer at 6 a. m., 300

Stormy weather is the exception. Out of 181 days, during one of the severest Winters known to white men

other locality present such an array of facts 1 With a coming storm the temperature usually rises, and I have observed that there has been no snow-fail when the thermometer read beliow 20° nor above 40° above zero, and that the snow falls most freely at from 25° to 28°. The severity of Winter had passed by the middle of January, supposing there was really any severity about it. And then the pleasant weather here; how bright, how clear, how charming to every human sense! Inhalation is a delight, and existence itself a luxury! This is due to the sainbrity, elasticity, and finely tempered humidity of the atmosphere, and applies with much truthfalness to all seasons of the year. To a casual visitor at least, there is nothing unpleasant in being surrounded by our heavy snow-bed, and the crystallization of its surface by the warm rays of the sun makes it one grand field of sparkling brillants, indescribably beautiful. At my home—Carnelian Bay—I have seen so little ice up to my present writing, that being indulged in a little latitude of description, I would write that not enough had been found to cool a palified of lemonade on a hot day in the valiety below. It requires the aid of art, with watchful care, to secure for Summer use on the lake.

The "Exploring Expedition to Oregon and North California" led Col. Fremont in the Whiter of 1843-4 through the Caseade range and into the heart of the Sierra Nevada. On Feb. 20, 1844, the party encamped in a pass on the western summit of the Sierra Nevada after having been for a month within two degrees of latitude and one degree of longitude of Lake Tahoe. Col. Fremont kept a meteorological record, which was, with the narrative of his eventful journeying and experiences, printed by authority of an act of Congress. Having this report at hand, I am enabled to make up a comparative table of temperatures at midwinter in the Bierra Nevada of California, 1844-76, between the parallels of north latitude 38° to 40° and of west longitude 19° 30° to 120° 30°. The Winter of 1844 was an o

	-1844.		1874		
Sunrise.	Noon.	Sunset.	6 s. m.	M.	6 p. u
an. 21-30	44	29Jan.		26	20
an 22-30	37	36Jan.		30	10
an. 23-40	**	42Jan.	23- 9	43	20
an. 24-45		36 Jan.	24-14	42	24
an. 25- 2		Jan.	25 - 24	44	30
an. 26- 2	30	47Jan.	26-34	42	24
an. 27-12	34	33Jan.		46	32
lan. 28-27		40Jan.		36	32
nn. 29-34	**	Jan.		44	30
an. 30-31	**		30-24	42	32
an. 31-25	2.5	Jan	31-20	37	22
Feb. 1-27	40	24 Feb.	1-20	44	32
eb. 2-24		33 Feb.		42	33
eb. 3-14	28	26Feb.	3-26	35	19
eb. 4-20		40 Peb	4-12	41	18
7eb. 5-10	48	24Feb		42	27
eb. 6-16	37	26Feb.		48	33
eb. 7 9	**	28 Feb		40	28
Feb. 8- 2	38	36Feb	8-23	46	28
Peb. 9-29	44	24 Feb	9-24	44	30
Feb. 10-35	42	37	10-34	38	33
Feb. 11-33	35	33 Feb	11-22	30	21
Yeb. 12-32		35 Feb		32	16
Peb. 13-33	**	35Feb		28	26
Feb. 14-21	**	32reb	14-18	36	26
Feb. 15-31	41	31Pets	15-16	35	23
Feb. 16-30	**	33 Feb	16-16	47	27
Feb. 17-23		32 Feb		36	29
Feb. 18-22			18-26	27	15
Peb. 19-28		32Peb	19- 8	36	23
Feb. 20-22	47	37Peb	20-15	36	20

FRUITS OF THE TEXAS GRANGES.

ECONOMY IN BUYING SUPPLIES—COMMISSIONS SAVED IN SELLING PRODUCE-ESTIMATES TO BE TAKEN WITH ALLOWANCE.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Houston, Texas, March 81.-There are 850 Granges in Texas, and yet Texas is not a Grange strong hold. Iowa has 2,000 Granges; Missouri, 2,007; Obio. 1,080; Tenuessee, 1,037. In the early days of the movement the railying cry was, "Down with the middle-men!" But sober afterthought has dispelled the illu-sions which clung around the nugget of fact enveloped in this idea. The Patrons of Industry, having come to see that "middlemen" are indispensable, have changed their cry to "Down with the superfluous middlemen!" Their efforts now are directed to the concentration of their business and the reduction, so far as possible, of the number of hands through which their supplies and produce pass. With what results! Great economy in buying and selling has been claimed, but the statements have been vague and unsatisfactory. It so happens

First; In regard to the purchase of supplies. The tendency is toward a two-fold concentration of business, primarily in the principal towns, secondarily in the on this lake, there were only 22 stormy ones and 44 va-stable ones, leaving 105 citer and fine days. Can any are making efforts to catch "Granger trade" the leadhands of the principal dealers. While all merchants

that facts bearing on this point are patent in Texas.

ing ones are really offering substantial inducements in the shape of very desirable discounts. The principal nerchauts, by reason of their ample means and facilities for buying, can offer better terms than their weaker neighbors, and as the "Grangers" are, beyond question, well aware of their opportunities, the business is slowly settling into the strongest hands. There have been an unusual number of failures during the past Fall and Summer in all parts of the country. It would be interesting to know how many of them are due to this cause. I conversed the other day with a Master of a Grange in an interior county. He had come to Houston to make arrangements for the purchase of his Grange supplies. In his neighborhood ordinary flour cost \$14 per barrel; he had just purchased the same article for \$7 50. Nails, for which he had paid \$8 per keg, and starch which he had bought for 20 cents per pound, now cost, respectively, \$4 50 and 61 cents. The merchants at the seat of his Grange at the outset had decided the efforts of the Patrons of Industry, but now he announced that he would go out of business. This is an illustration of a change that is being wrought in all parts of the State, and perhaps the Union.

There is an analogous revolution in the sale of pro-There is an analogous revolution in the sale of produce. Factors and produce agents have hitherto obtained 24 per cent commission for seiling and 24 per cent for advances on consignments. The Patrons of Industry in Texas have effected arrangements, not with adventurers, but with some of the most responsible dealers in the State, for the total abolition of the commissions on advances together with the exchange on drafts sent into the interior, reducing the charges on advances to simple interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, and for the sale of their produce at 14 per cent. They have also emancipated themselves from an irritating exaction that confronted them at small railroad towns. A farmer shipping his cotton from one of these towns has hitherto been compelled to employ the services of a local merchant at an expense of from 25 to 50 cents per bale for shipping. Now, however, by an agreement lately effected between the Executive Committee of the State Grange and the railroad companies, say Patron may take his cotton to the depot and ship it himself, free of expense, the railroad agent being required to fill up the blanks. The cotton crop of Texas is inground figures 500,000 bales. The abolition of the single expense last named—25 cents per bale, is generally 50 per cent less than the actual charge—increases the annual income of the farmers \$125,000. The savings in commissions amounts to about 75 cents per bale, and to \$375,000 on the whole crop. The advances on consignments average \$30 per bale; 24 per cent on these amounts to 75 cents per bale. In this way \$375,000 is saved, and there is a total reduction of \$875,000 in the expenses of handling the cotton crop of Texas.

This statement, however, must be taken with some duce. Factors and produce agents have hitherto ob

tion of \$575,000 in the expenses of handling the cotton crop of Texas.

This statement, however, must be taken with some limitations. First, all the planters of Texas are not Patrons, to whom alone the benefits councrated accrue. Secondly, all the Patrons have not yet availed themselves of these advantages, from the fact that all the Grances are not in good working order. Perhaps a fourth of that amount, or \$218,750, will be saved during the present season, and possibly even less; but there cannot be a reasonable doubt that the entire cotton crop of Texas will be handled next year under these conditions.

A GENERAL PENSION LAW SUGGESTED.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Will you permit me to say a word about the pension laws! Nearly fifty years after the Revolu tionary war Congress granted pensions to the survivor of that war, and a few years ago to the survivors of the war of 1812-15, and there is now an effort being made to pension the survivors of the Mexican war. I would suggest, and bope you will advocate a general pension law, for the following reasons:

The soldiers, who were middle-aged men, in the Britisl

The soldiers, who were middle-aged men, in the British wars, had all, or nearly all of them, died before the pension laws were enacted. Men who have families make greater sacrifices in joining the army than single men do, and generally are poorer at the close of the war than they were at the beginning.

My idea is that every man who serves the country in time of war, either in the army or navy, should, when he arrives at a certain see, say 60 years, be entitled to a pension. Under such a law a soldier who was 63 years of age in 1861 would begin drawing a pension in 1876, while one who was 35 years of age at that time would reach the pension age in 1886; and those who were 25 years of age in 1861 would reach the same age in 1896, and so so. The older men would die before the younger men became pensioners, and as only a small number of men reach the age of 60 years, there would not be many pensioners at any one time.

W. A. P. Omaha, Neb., April 2, 1878.

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